

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents...

THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES
with enough power to...

- **cleans** from all sin
- **set us free** from all bondage
- **break all the power** of the enemy over us
- **restore us to total spiritual health**
- **develop immunity** to all last-day deceptions

#37 - The Deceptions of the Beast

What do you know about the beast? Perhaps you have heard sermons about the rise of the beast, its identification in history, its number (666), about legislation of worship, about possible bio-chip implants in the head or hand. Perhaps you have stored up enough food, gluten, granola, and water to last you through the time of trouble. Perhaps you daily scan websites for the latest historical information about the activities of the beast power. And you attend meetings by lecturers in presents you with the very latest up-to-date sensational information about end-time events. Question: Do you really believe that you are fully now prepared for last-day events? The more I hear from individuals like that, the more I discover that they are motivated more by fear and foreboding of the future than a genuine love and trust in Jesus.

Do you remember the words of a well-known preacher, who some years ago used to say, *It is not enough to know the time-table so you can catch the last bus out. You must also know the Conductor, Jesus.*

May I suggest that the greatest antidote to the beast is the genuine worship of the Lamb. Bank tellers do not even touch the counterfeit bills. They only know the genuine bills. Is it possible that the fear of deception has so infiltrated our hearts that we have become stunted in our ability to love Jesus? And could our fear of the counterfeit have become so overwhelming that we may be in danger of rejecting the genuine?

Psychologists tells us that little children instinctively know whether a touch by someone is a "good touch" or a "bad touch." Likewise, Jesus wants us to know Him so closely that we instinctively know the voice of Jesus. Speaking about Himself as the Good Shepherd, Jesus said, *"He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out...He goes before them: and the sheep follow him, for they know His voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers"* (John 10:3-5).

It is of more than passing interest to note that immediately following the description of the beast as found in Revelation 13:1-8, that verse nine states, *“If anyone has an ear let him hear.”* And seven times in Revelation chapters 2 & 3, in each of the letters to the seven churches, a similar wording occurs, *“He who has an ear, let him hear.”* There is a very special and inspired reason this passage. These words have their root in Psalm 115. Psalm 115 states that the more energy (worship) we expend on our idols, the more we become like our idols. *“They have ears but they hear not...so is everyone who trusts in them”* (Psalm 115:7,8). All idols are substitutes for God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The beast is a counterfeit, a substitute, for Jesus.

If you really want to be fully prepared for last-day deceptions, then learn to know the voice of Jesus. And to make sure that your hearing is not impaired, dethrone every idol in your life now. Idolatry is when anyone or anything gets more glory than Jesus Christ. Idolatry is using what should be worshiped, and worshipping what should be used. Idols prevent us from hearing the voice of Jesus.

When you learn to worship the Lamb, you will never live in fear of the beast. The two key verses in the Book of Revelation that will give you the best preparation to withstand the deceptions of the beast are passages that speak about the worship and power of the Lamb.

- *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing”* (Revelation 5:12).
- *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death”* (Revelation 12:11).

Listen to the Lamb! Listen to the testimonies of the witnesses in heaven’s open courtroom. And join with them in the worship of the Lamb.